

From: Gavin Noyes
To: james_cason@ios.doi.gov
Cc: miles.janssen@bia.gov; kathleen_benedetto@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Bears Ears- Tribal & Local Government Resolutions of Support
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 11:20:06 AM
Attachments: [Tribal Resolutions to Sec. Zinke Aug 2017.pdf](#)
[NN Chapter Resolutions to Sec Zinke August 2017.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Cason,

As the monuments review period closes today, I want to make sure that Department of Interior has received all of the resolutions and letters of support for Bears Ears that have come from Tribes and local governments in San Juan County, Utah. Some of these have arrived since the public comment period ended on July 10th, and we would like to make sure they are still added to the official record.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions. Sincerely,

Gavin Noyes
Executive Director
Utah Diné Bikéyah
801-521-7398



Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

711 Central Avenue, Suite 220, Billings, Montana 59102
Ph: (406) 252-2550 Fax: (406) 254-6355



August 17, 2017

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke
222 North 32 Street, Suite 900
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We again thank you for your years of service in Montana. You continue to show a respect for our concerns as Native American people and you continue to have our respect and confidence.

For a second time, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC) writes to pronounce our support for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. As stated in our letter dated February 17, 2017, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC) exists to provide its member Tribes with a unified voice and a collective organization to address issues of concern to the Tribes and Indian people. The member tribes of RMTLC respectfully ask you to carefully consider tribal sovereignty in your final recommendation on national monuments this week, particularly as it pertains to Bears Ears National Monument. Tribal sovereignty is a central component to what this Monument is about and we ask that you honor the historic agreement of our federal government to the tribes of the Bears Ears region by recommending that Bears Ears National Monument boundaries remain as established. Our understanding is that the original boundary proposal was based on data that only tribes possess through their tribal elders. Honoring tribal sovereignty includes honoring such data that only tribes possess. It is our hope that your recommendation will protect this historic monument with its established boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

William F. Snell, Jr.
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

file

WHEREAS, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board is the duly elected body representing the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribes. All actions shall be adherent to provisions set forth in the 1960 Constitution and By-Laws, and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears region holds vast cultural, historical, and paleontological resources and is world renowned for its integrity and abundance of its archeological resources. This living landscape continues to nurture, strengthen and sustain tribal people as it holds spiritual and cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016, by Presidential Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of an intertribal collaboration and our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access and practical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the established boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument are much smaller than what the local communities and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed to honor Tribes today; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Commission was created by the Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on the management of the monument utilizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument has every opportunity to serve as a beacon of hope and will leave a legacy of conservation for all Americans for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes emphasizes the importance of the Bears Ears region to our community members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes affirms our support of the Bears Ears National Monument, with its established boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes affirms its support of the established Bears Ears Commission with its established purpose;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes urges all to recognize and respect tribal sovereignty, which is a key component to properly honoring the Bears Ears region.

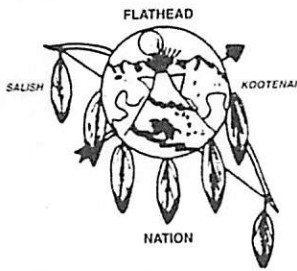
CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Secretary/Accountant of the Tribal Executive Board of the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Executive Board is composed of 12 voting members of whom 10 constituting a quorum were present at a Special Board meeting duly convened this 14th day of August, 2017 and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 9 for, and 3 absent.


Secretary Accountant

APPROVED:


Chairman/Vice Chairman
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board



A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vernon S. Finley - Chairman
Len Twoteeth - Vice Chair
Troy Felsman - Secretary
Anita Matt - Treasurer
Ronald Trahan
Shelly R. Fyant
Leonard W. Gray
Carole Lankford
Dennis Clairmont
Patty Stevens

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We want to congratulate you on your nomination and confirmation to be the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. As overseer of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management, this new role will help define relationships with tribes and our natural resources. We look forward to working with you and the federal agencies in this capacity in the future.

We are writing to state our support for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. This monument was created in response to the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition including Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Tribe of the Uinta Ouray Reservation. It is the first time in history that Native American Tribes have called for and succeeded in protecting their sacred ancestral homelands through a National Monument designation by a President of the United States of America.

When asked about the Bears Ears National Monument during the recent confirmation hearings for this position, you stated that if you are confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, you will travel to Utah to talk to people on the ground and make a recommendation to President Donald Trump. We understand that this could lead to a recommendation that the monument be repealed, modified or reduced in size.

We respectfully request that you meet with the Tribes that supported the effort to create the Bears Ears National Monument on your trip to Utah, including the Navaho Nation Council who recently passed a tribal resolution in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation and in opposition to any congressional or administrative action to reverse the proclamation. We believe this will provide you with perspective on what these ancestral lands mean to these Tribes. We also urge you to respect the historic significance of this monument for Native Americans in this country and that your recommendation to President Trump is to leave protections for the monument in place.

We appreciate your cooperation with our Tribes during your time in Congress and look forward to working with you as Secretary of the Interior.

Respectfully,


CSKT Tribal Council Chairman



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2665 KWINA ROAD BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 (360) 312-2000

DEPARTMENT _____ DIRECT NO. _____

June 8, 2017

To the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition:

On behalf of the Lummi Nation, I write to urge retaining the National Monument designation for Bears Ears. This is a matter of importance to all peoples who wish to honor the past and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

The modern day Bears Ears region is within the ancestral landscape of tribes who support this designation. Their felt-association and cultural affiliation with this region is beyond dispute. It traces back thousands of years and is commemorated in tribal oral history and many ethnographic accounts. It is a centerpiece of identity for Native peoples.

The Lummi people understand the struggle to protect these sacred landscapes. We also find ourselves in a time in this country when the many—alive and yet unborn—must pay the price for the benefit of the few. We recently turned back a coal port that would have denatured our traditional fishing grounds and desecrated a historic site that dates back over 9,500 years. It would have resulted in a short-term benefit for a few companies and corporations at a very high, long-term cost to our people and other communities in the Pacific Northwest.

We made the point then, and we can make it for Bears Ears as well, that there is a double standard operating in America, today. No one would seriously consider removing existing protections for Arlington National Cemetery, from the Gettysburg battlefield, or from the sacred site of the Battle of Greasy Grass.

In truth the protections offered for Bears Ears as a National Monument are the very least it should be afforded. It is a place where Native peoples lived, created their histories, and left a lasting legacy. It is not so difficult for opponents of the National Monument to understand. It is really a matter of their priorities. Those who oppose the Monument likely want to accelerate either the extraction of resources, remove federal ownership—or both. We believe arguing for removal of the designation is a misrepresentation of a greater public good is a scandalous subterfuge, and an intentional deception brought about by a handful of local interest, lobbyists and their lawyers.

As the Hopi Tribe mentioned in their November 29, 2016 letter to the President stating their support for the designation, the “deep and timeless connections to the Bears ears is the basis for reasserting our request” for the designation. It is in our view unconscionable to attempt to remove this designation.

Please understand that we stand with you in this struggle.

Respectfully yours,

Timothy Ballew II
Chairman

Lummi Indian Business Council

Utah Tribal Leaders



May 3, 2017

Department of the Interior
ATTN: Secretary Ryan Zinke
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Utah Tribal Leaders consultation meeting regarding Bears Ears national monument designation.

Dear Secretary Zinke,

On behalf of the Utah Tribal Leaders (UTL), I respectfully request an official consultation meeting with you, and appropriate Department of Interior (DOI) leadership, as soon as possible regarding the Bears Ears national monument designation. I understand that you may be in Utah within the near future and I hope that you will make time to meet with myself and other members of the UTL. The Bears Ears national monument designation is an important issue for the UTL as it implicates tribal, state, and federal sovereignty rights over some of our most sacred cultural sites and objects.

The UTL is made up of elected tribal leaders from the following federally recognized Indian tribes in Utah: the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the White Mesa Ute Community.

The United States Supreme Court stated that "Great nations, like great men, should keep their word." *Federal Power Commission v. Tuscarora Indian Nation*, 362 U.S. 99 (1960). Under the highest law of the land, the Constitution, the United States has voluntarily promised to always protect Indian Tribal resources. This responsibility is a legal obligation under which the United States "has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust" whose conduct "should be judged by the most exacting fiduciary standards." *Seminole Nation v. United States*, 316 U.S. 286 (1942).

In 2000, to carry out this trust responsibility, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 13175, which required all executive agencies to consult and collaborate in meaningful and regular consultation with Indian Tribes when making decisions with tribal implications. In furtherance of the 2000 Executive Order, the Secretary of Interior executed Secretarial Order 3317, which included more specific consultation

Utah Tribal Leaders



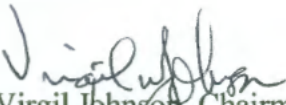
requirements including provisions that Indian tribes are entitled to meet with the proper DOI employees, who have the appropriate decision making authority.

The UTL oppose the State of Utah taking over and managing the Bears Ears Region, as such actions will place all of the authority to determine and protect American Indian Tribal interests and resources within the purview of the State of Utah, which is in direct contradiction with the trust responsibility and rights that American Indian Tribes possess pursuant to the United States Constitution. The trust responsibility exists under federal law and American Indian Tribal rights and resources are protected by the United States Government, which is why the President of the United States made Bears Ears a National Monument. In other words, if the State of Utah proceeds, American Indian Tribes will have no assurances that their interests will be protected in the Bears Ears region.

Thus, it is pursuant to the trust responsibility that the United States government has towards Indian tribes and the DOI's own consultation orders, that the UTL respectfully request an official consultation meeting with you as soon as possible regarding the Bears Ears national monument designation.

If you have any questions, please contact me immediately at (435)234-1138 or at virgil.johnson@ctgr.us.

Sincerely,


Virgil Johnson, Chairman
Utah Tribal Leaders
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
Business Council Chairman



CONFEDERATED TRIBES
of the
GOSHUTE RESERVATION

P.O. BOX 6104
IBAPAH, UTAH 84034
PHONE (435) 234-1138
FAX (435) 234-1162

**RESOLUTION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF THE GOSHUTE RESERVATION**

BEARS EARS RESOLUTION

17-G-__

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation (CTGR) is an Indian tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 as amended, operating in accordance with terms and conditions of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws, approved November 25, 1940 as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CTGR's inherent sovereignty as an Indian Tribe, and pursuant to the CTGR's Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, the governing body of CTGR is the Business Council; and

WHEREAS, the CTGR Business Council has the authority, pursuant to its Constitution and inherent sovereignty as an Indian tribe, to make decisions that serve the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of its tribal members, including but not limited to, protecting historic, cultural, spiritual, and sacred places within Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the "Supreme Law of the Land", as contained in the Treaty Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8, and the trust responsibility, the U.S. Government has legal and moral obligations to protect Indian Tribal resources. States do not have similar mandatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, Bears Ears National Monument is a historic, cultural, spiritual, and sacred region located in southeastern Utah, consisting of 1,351,849 acres (289,000 acres of Forest Service lands and 1.06 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands). The Bears Ears National Monument is the 12th national monument managed by the Forest Service; it is the fifth to be managed jointly by the Forest Service and BLM. Monuments generally preserve current uses of the land, including tribal access for traditional plant and firewood

gathering and for ceremonial purposes, off-highway recreation on existing routes, grazing, hunting and fishing and water and utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears region is a place of extreme historical, cultural, and archeological significance. “It is a place to connect, a place to heal, and a place where Native American Traditional Knowledge can be explored and nurtured so that it continues to inform and illuminate contemporary life; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, indigenous people have lived in the Bears Ears region in its deep sandstone canyons, desert mesas, and meadow mountaintops. This region is known as:

. . . one of the densest and most significant cultural landscapes in the United States. [It contains] [a]bundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but most notably the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe. “The area’s cultural importance to Native American tribes continues to this day. As they have for generations, these tribes and their members come here for ceremonies and to visit sacred sites. . . . Traditions of hunting, fishing, gathering, and wood cutting are still practiced by tribal members, as is collection of medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible herbs, and materials for crafting items like baskets and footwear;

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears region is also a place of abundant deposits of uranium, potash, oil and gas, a place that surrounding state, congressional and local government decision-makers sought to designate as an energy development zone; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears region was recently named one of the “11 Most Endangered Historic Places” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation due to the risk of degradation from mineral exploration and extraction, recreational abuse, and cultural resource vandalism and looting. Uranium mining, gravel quarrying, and tar sands development threaten to degrade lands within the Bears Ears region, while threats of oil, gas, and potash development also exist to the eastern lands just beyond the national monument; and

WHEREAS, Utah lawmakers are pursuing legislation targeting Bears Ears National Monument proposing the State of Utah take over and manage these archaeologically rich lands in San Juan County, Utah. Rep. Mike Noel's HCR24 calls on the state to acquire the "public land that is occupied by" the new monument using the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The bill acknowledges the monument holds land and objects of great cultural, scientific and historical interest and are "profoundly sacred" to the five tribes that successfully petitioned the Obama administration to designate the monument; and

WHEREAS, the CTGR Business Council opposes the State of Utah taking over and managing the Bears Ears Region, as such actions will place all of the authority to determine and

protect Indian Tribal interests and resources within the purview of the State of Utah, which is in direct contradiction with the trust responsibility and rights that Indian Tribes possess pursuant to the United States Constitution. The trust responsibility exists under federal law and Indian Tribal rights are protected by the United States Government, which is why the President of the United States made Bears Ears a National Monument. In other words, if the State of Utah proceeds, Indian Tribes will have no assurances that their interests will be protected in the Bears Ears region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation Business Council hereby calls upon Governor Gary R. Herbert, the Utah State Legislature, and all other relevant staff, to immediately halt the process of attempting to destroy the National Monument designation of the Bears Ears region.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, the undersigned, as Chairperson, of the Business Council for the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, hereby certify that the Business Council is composed of five (5) members of whom five (4), constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting called and held on the **3rd day of March, 2017**, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted and approved by an affirmative vote of **4 FOR; 0 AGAINST; 0 ABSTAINED** pursuant to the authority contained under Article VII, Section 1(a) of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws, approved November 25, 1940.

Virgil Johnson Chairman
CTGR Business Council

ATTEST:

Phyllis Naranjo, Secretary
CTGR Business Council



PHONE (360) 598-3311
Fax (360) 598-6295
<http://www.suquamish.nsn.us>

THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

PO Box 498 Suquamish, WA 98392-0498

Submitted via Regulations.gov

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Executive Order 13792, Review of Certain National Monuments

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The Suquamish Tribe appreciates the opportunity to provide comments concerning National Monuments, in response to your Department's review of such designations pursuant to Executive Order 13792 and Federal Register Number 2017-09490. The Suquamish Tribe is a signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott and is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in Washington State. Since time immemorial, the Suquamish people have inhabited the abundant inland waters of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea. Suquamish means "people of the clear salt water" in traditional Lushootseed language. In 1854, Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe reminded present and future generations of Americans that "[e]very part of this country is sacred to my people."

Since Congress enacted the Antiquities Act in 1906, sixteen Presidents spanning the political spectrum have proclaimed 157 National Monuments across the United States. Our nation's Monuments celebrate and protect America's diverse, collective history. Monuments preserve the natural capital of this continent, which sustained indigenous peoples such as the Suquamish for thousands of years. National Monuments also serve as economic drivers and points of pride for local communities. In a rapidly changing world, National Monuments and the Antiquities Act are a first line of defense, ensuring there will always be places where all Americans can seek solace and connect with our past.

The arguments for reviewing and potentially reducing the size of our national monuments are short-sighted. The need for short-term gains in energy extraction and expansion of destructive recreational activities pale in the value that these monuments will have over many generations who can continue to have unique cultural and spiritual experiences with these unique ancient American landscapes. Local communities continue to work together to balance the need for jobs with the preservation of our irreplaceable cultural heritage and spiritual places. Cultural tourism is a growing renewable industry. National monuments are key to the tourism industry's sustainability.

The Suquamish Tribe is concerned about the disturbing trend that this Administration is taking that has the overall intent to diminish the preservation of the places that makes our traditional homeland sacred and nurturing including our beaches, lakes, streams, mountains, and deserts given to us by our Creator to preserve, sustain, and enjoy. Tribes have a uniquely profound stake in the future of America's National Monuments because Monuments often encompass important indigenous cultural sites and resources. Here in Washington State, for example, the San Juan Islands National Monument, designated in 2013, includes part of the Suquamish Tribe's usual and accustomed treaty fishing grounds. Hanford Reach National Monument, one of the Monuments expressly named for review, covers ancestral territory of the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Colville Tribes. From Devils Tower National Monument, designated in 1906, to Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, designated in 2000, National Monument status has frequently been invoked to preserve places of tremendous spiritual and cultural value to Native American peoples.

Regional Tribes have expressed unanimous and unequivocal support for protection of Bears Ears as a National Monument, and Tribes from coast to coast stand with them. The current stance of the executive branch questioning the validity of the Bears Ears National Monument, among other designations, runs counter to the federal government's firm fiduciary obligation as trustee of tribal interests. As Secretary of the Interior, you have an obligation as a federal trustee to uphold this fiduciary duty, and protect tribal interests. Your June 10 interim report to the President, however, recommending that "the existing boundary of the BENM [Bears Ears National Monument] be modified" stands in stark opposition to the express wishes of the tribal governments affected by the designation. As one of the 567 sovereign tribal nations to whom you owe this obligation, the Suquamish Tribe calls on you to heed your solemn fiduciary duty and stand with Tribes in protecting America's National Monuments, including BENM.

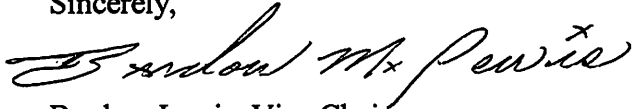
Furthermore, the Antiquities Act withholds authority from a President to change, downsize or abolish a national monument designation or weaken the protections afforded by a national monument proclamation declared by a predecessor. Congress purposefully reserved this power. Although under the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated authority to the President to act to create a national monument, only Congress can modify or revoke that action. The enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976 reaffirms Congress's express intention to purposefully reserve for itself the power to revoke or modify national monument proclamations.

As Chief Seattle cautioned half a century before the Antiquities Act was passed into law, "In all the earth there is no place dedicated to solitude. At night when the streets of your cities and villages are silent and you think them deserted, they will throng with the returning hosts that once filled them and still love this beautiful land."

July 10, 2017
Secretary Zinke
Page 3

The Suquamish Tribe urges you to fully protect and preserve the integrity of our country's current and future National Monuments that are proclaimed under the Antiquities Act, to comply with the Antiquities Act, and to respect that modification or revoking of a National Monument can only be accomplished by an act of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bardow M. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small 'x' over the 'i' in Lewis.

Bardow Lewis, Vice Chairman
Suquamish Tribe

Santee Sioux Nation

TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS

Chairman, Roger Trudell
Vice Chairman, David Henry
Treasurer, Derek LaPointe
Secretary, Stuart Redwing



108 Spirit Lake Avenue W.
Niobrara, NE 68760-7219
Phone: (402) 857-2772
Fax: (402) 857-2779

July 3, 2017

To the Bear Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition:

We here at the Santee Sioux Nation in Santee, Nebraska are writing to urge retaining the National Monument designation for Bear Ears. Bear Ears honors our Native people in the area in the past and hopefully well into the future. Things like this can never be brought back once destroyed. We at the Santee Sioux Nation are in total support of the preservation of Bear Ears National Monument and stand with you.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Roger Trudell, written in a cursive style.

Roger Trudell

Santee Sioux Nation Tribal Chairman



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

Tribal Chiefs

Principal Chief
Chief Colabe III
Clem F. Sylestine

Second Chief
Chief Skalaaba
Herbert G. Johnson, Sr.

Tribal Council

Jo Ann Battise, Chairperson
Ronnie Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Nita Battise, Secretary/Treasurer
Johnny Stafford, Member
Maynard Williams, Member
Obrey Alec, Member
David Battise, Member

July 10, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: Letter of Support Submitted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to Support Protection of the Bears Ears National Monument

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (the "Tribe") respectfully requests that this letter serve as acknowledgement of the Tribe's full support on behalf of the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in their battle to protect and preserve the Bears Ears National Monument.

The scarcity and sanctity of land in the United States of America is of utmost importance to our Tribe, and because the Bears Ears monument is the first and only U.S. national monument that primarily focuses on Indigenous heritage; we believe it must be considered an even greater resource worth protecting.

Throughout history, tribes have fought an uphill battle to safeguard both our heritage and lands. The Bears Ears region has more than 100,000 archaeological sites across 1.9 million acres, which encompass petroglyphs, burial sites, and ancient cliff dwellings. President Trump's executive order threatening the elimination of Bears Ears, as well as many other important and national monuments, endangers centuries of historical and sacred spaces. This reckless attitude toward U.S. lands and Native American history must be stopped.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Battise".

Jo Ann Battise
Tribal Chairperson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

Tribal Chiefs

Principal Chief
Chief Colabe III
Clem F. Sylestine

Second Chief
Chief Skalaaba
Herbert G. Johnson, Sr.

Tribal Council

Jo Ann Battise, Chairperson
Ronnie Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Nita Battise, Secretary/Treasurer
Johnny Stafford, Member
Maynard Williams, Member
Obrey Alec, Member
David Battise, Member

July 10, 2017

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBAL COUNCIL ACITC Resolution #2017-31

PERTAINING, to the Tribal Council exercising its delegated powers under Article VI, Section I, Powers, Constitution and Bylaws of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council seeks to provide or assist in the provision of social, cultural, legal, economic and other needs for the Tribal members; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as the governing body of the Tribe, has the power to exercise its full authorities, rights and responsibilities available under its sovereign nation status to promote the peace, health, education, jurisdiction, community, children, lands, resources and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that all Tribes have the inherent right to protect their ancestral land and acknowledges the battle of the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in their fight against the potential destruction and/or desecration of great historic, religious, and cultural significances; and,

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council fully supports the Dine, Ute, Hopi and Zuni Nations in protecting and preserving the Bears Ears National Monument.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council hereby approves this letter and thereby authorizes the Tribe to submit Exhibit A to Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Chairperson of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, do hereby certify that the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council is composed of seven (7) members, of whom were present at a regular meeting duly called in accordance with Article V of the Tribal Bylaws on July 10, 2017 and that the Tribal Council adopted this Resolution by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained.

Nita Battise
Secretary/Treasurer,
Tribal Council

Jo Ann Battise
Chairperson, Tribal Council



**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

NUCAUG-718-17

**SUPPORT FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ITS
ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES**

Whereas:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission (NUC) is a governmental subdivision of the Navajo Nation and is subject to oversight of the Navajo Nation Council - Naabik'iya'ti' Committee pursuant to resolution no. NABIAP-21-15; and
2. The Navajo Utah Commission includes seven Utah chapters with citizens residing in San Juan county, Utah, and largely dependent on the lands and resources within Bears Ears National Monument; and
3. The community members in the Utah chapters hold a special status as both U.S. citizens and the Navajo Nation, whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and
4. The Bears Ears region holds vast cultural, historical, and paleontological resources and is world renowned for its integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources; and
5. The Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016, by Presidential Proclamation; and
6. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of an intertribal collaboration and our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access and practical purposes; and
7. The established boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument are much smaller than what the local communities and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed; and
8. The Bears Ears Commission was created to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on the management of the monument utilizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people; and

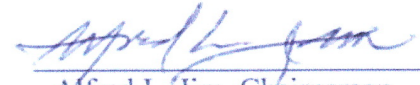
9. The Bears Ears National Monument will leave a legacy of conservation for all Americans for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby supports Bears Ears National Monument and its established boundaries.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Navajo Utah Commission at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Arizona at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstentions, this 09th day of August, 2017.



Alfred L. Jim, Chairperson
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION

MOTION: Henry Stevens, Jr.
SECOND: Julia Richards



Tólikan Chapter

P. O. Box 105 • TeecNosPos, Arizona 86514

RESOLUTION # TC-067 – 08/13/2017

RESOLUTION OF TOLIKAN CHAPTER SUPPORTING BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ITS ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES.

WHEREAS:

1. The Tólikan Chapter is formally recognized as a Local Governance Act Certified Chapter by the Transportation and Community Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council by Resolution No. TCDC-CAP-34-98, enacted on November 29, 2010, authorizing the Tólikan Chapter to exercise local governance authority, pursuant to 26 NNC, Section 102 (B), to administer the Tólikan Chapter's Five Management System Policies; and
2. The Tólikan Chapter Government is cognizant of its duties and responsibilities; and obligations to the health, safety, and well-being of its community as stated in the Navajo Nation Code; and
3. The Tólikan Chapter community members and relatives are residents of San Juan County, Utah and are depend on the lands and resources within Bears Ears National Monument; and
4. The Tólikan Chapter community members held their monthly regular meeting as U.S. citizens and the Navajo Nation, whose ancestral lands encompass all of the San Juan county; and
5. The Bears Ears region holds vast cultural, historical and paleontological resources and is world renowned for its integrity and abundance of its archeological resources; and
6. The Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016 by Presidential Proclamation; and
7. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of an intertribal collaboration and our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access and practical purposes; and
8. The established boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument are much smaller than what the local communities and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed; and
9. The Bears Ears Commission was created to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on the management of the monument utilizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people; and
10. The Bears Ears National Monument will leave a legacy of conservation for all American for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Tólikan Chapter respectfully submits this resolution supporting:

1. Emphasized importance of the Bears Ears region to our community members;
2. Affirms our support of the Bears Ears National Monument, with is established boundaries;
3. Affirms its support of the established Bears Ears Commission with its established purpose;
4. Urges all to recognize and respect tribal sovereignty, which is a key component to properly honoring the Bears Ears region.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Tólikan Chapter (Navajo Nation) at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and was motioned by Woody Lee; seconded by Marie L. Hanley and that same was passed by a vote of 16 in favor, 02 opposed, and 01 abstained this 13th day of August 2017.

Lena Clark, President



Louise Scott, Secretary/Treasurer

Davis Filfred, Council Delegate



Lovena Lee, Vice President

David Tsosie, Grazing Committee



MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER



Red Mesa TP#1019, HC 61 Box 38 • Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514 • (928) 429-0986

Mexican Water Chapter

MWCAUG06-127

RESOLUTION OF MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER

Approving to support and request to Maintain Designation of the Bear's Ears Monument as signed into Law by former President Barak Obama as its established boundaries.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this Act; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 102 (B); which permits Mexican Water Chapter to exercise local governance authorities contained within 26 N.N.C. Section 103, with the exception of land administration authority pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section (D (1); and
3. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 3 (A) the Mexican Water Chapter is a recognized certified chapter of the Navajo Nation government as listed at 11 N.N.C. part 1, section 10; and
4. Pursuant to CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council adopted the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA); and
5. Pursuant to Mexican Water Chapter resolution MWCJUL11-105, the Mexican Water Chapter has approved its Five Management System Policies and Procedures Manuals; and
6. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this Act; and
7. The Mexican Water chapter with citizens residing in San Juan county, Utah, and largely dependent on the lands and resources within Bears Ears National Monument; and
8. The community members in the Mexican Water chapter hold a special status as both U.S. citizens and the Navajo Nation, whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and
9. The Bears Ears region holds vast cultural, historical, and paleontological resources and is world renowned for its integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources; and
10. The Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016, by Presidential Proclamation; and
11. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of an intertribal collaboration and our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access and practical purposes; and
12. The established boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument are much smaller than what the local communities and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed; and
13. The Bears Ears Commission was created to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on the management of the monument utilizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people; and
14. The Bears Ears National Monument will leave a legacy of conservation for all Americans for future generations

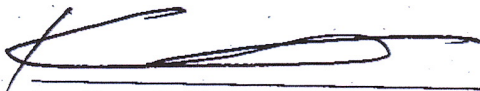
.....

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Mexican Water Chapter elected officials and its chapter membership hereby approves to support and request to Maintain Designation of the Bear's Ears Monument as signed into Law by former President Barak Obama as its established boundaries.
2. The Mexican Water Chapter reaffirms its' position supporting the proclamation establishing the Bears Ears National Monument by the President of the United States, Barack Obama and opposing further congressional action to reverse the Presidential Proclamation
3. The Mexican Water Chapter opposed Utah Concurrent Resolution H.C.R. 11 because the state legislation misstates the circumstances of the Navajo Nation, the state legislation misinterprets Native Americans support for the Bears Ears designation and, above all, there was no prior consultation with Navajo leadership.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at Mexican Water Chapter, (Navajo Nation), Utah at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 17 in favor and 00 opposed, 02 abstained on the 6th day of August 2017.



Kenneth Maryboy, President

David L. John, Vice President

Clifford L. Sagg, Secretary/Treasurer



OLJATO CHAPTER/ADMINISTRATION
PO BOX 360455
MONUMENT VALLEY, UTAH 84536
Email: oljato@navajochapters.org
Phone: 435-727-5850 Fax: 5852
Shirlee Bedonie, Com. Serv. Coord.

Herman Daniels Jr., Council Delegate
James Adakai, President
Albert Holiday, Vice President
LaNell Menard-Parrish, Sec/Treasurer
Billy Charley, Grazing Official
Peggy Abrigo, Account. Maint. Specialist

RESOLUTION NO: 0LJ08-15-2017

RESOLUTION OF THE OLJATO CHAPTER SUPPORTS FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ITS ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES.

WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation is a Federally recognized Sovereign Tribal Government;
2. The Oljato Chapter is officially recognized and certified as a local government body of the Navajo Nation Government pursuant to Navajo Nation Code, Section 4004 and vested with the authority to discuss all matters affecting the Navajo people and its Nation; and
3. The Oljato Chapter includes community members that are residents of San Juan County, Utah and depend on the lands and resources within Bears Ears National Monument; and
4. The Oljato Chapter community members hold a special status as both U.S. citizens and the Navajo Nation, whose ancestral land encompass all of San Juan County; and
5. The Bears Ears region hold vast cultural, historical and paleontological resources and is world renowned for its integrity and abundance of its archeological resources; and
6. The Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016 by Presidential Proclamation; and
7. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of an intertribal collaboration and our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access and practical purposes; and
8. The established boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument are much smaller than what the local communities and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposed; and
9. The Bears Ears Commission was created to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on the management of the monument utilizing the traditional knowledge of indigenous people; and
10. The Bears Ears National Monument will leave a legacy of conservation for all Americans for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Oljato Chapter emphasizes the importance of the Bears Ears region to our community members;
2. The Oljato Chapter affirms our support of the Bears Ears National Monument, with its established boundaries;
3. The Oljato Chapter affirms its support of the established Bears Ears Commission with its established purpose;
4. The Oljato Chapter urges all to recognized and respect tribal sovereignty, which is a key component to properly honoring the Bears Ears region.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered b the Oljato Chapter at a regular duly called meeting at Oljato, Navajo Nation, Utah at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 27 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained, this 13 day of August 2017.

1st Motion: Nelson Yellowman

James Adakai
James Adakai, President

LaNell Menard-Parrish
LaNell Menard-Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer

2nd Motion: Raymond Seaton

Albert Holiday
Albert Holiday, Vice-President

Billy Charley
Billy Charley, Grazing Official



June 14, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Email: miles.janssen@bia.gov, james_cason@ios.doi.gov, exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov,

Re: Docket No. DOI-2017-0002, Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for re-opening the comment period on Bears Ears National Monument until July 10th, 2017. As stated in the many letters Navajo Nation Chapter House governments have sent you since March, we invite you to attend a community listening session in Monument Valley, Utah to discuss the Bears Ears National Monument prior to the close of this comment period. Our communities were ready to meet with you during your visit in May, but you neither shared your schedule nor left the northern half of San Juan County. We want to meet with you in southern San Juan County and explain why we have worked so hard over the past seven years to protect this sacred landscape.

During your confirmation hearing, you stated that your first official order of business was to talk to local community members in Utah before making a recommendation to the President of the United States about the Bears Ears National Monument. Despite your brief time in Utah, you have yet to engage the local community in a meaningful manner. The majority of San Juan County residents are Native Americans who support the monument, and 60% of residents live south of Blanding, Utah. We wrote the original proposal that formed the basis of the National Monument, and we continue to support the National Monument today, despite the struggle to be heard by the Utah delegation.

The Bears Ears National Monument continues to be a place of healing for our people, a place where we gather firewood, plants and medicinal herbs. Bears Ears is also a place that is in need of protection. You mentioned in the interim report that "BENM contain(s) some objects that are appropriate for protection under the Act. This includes rock art, dwellings, ceremonial sites, granaries, and other cultural resources." Yet you fail to recognize that **the landscape itself** is inseparable from the values it holds in the areas of plants, animals, geologic features, spring, and its natural beauty. In fact, it is the entirety of the landscape that saved Navajo people and our cultural traditions. In 1862, hundreds of our ancestors found refuge from the trauma of "The Long Walk," when Navajos were rounded up by the U.S. Cavalry under the command of Kit Carson and forced to walk 300 miles to New Mexico. We hid out for years in canyons on the west side of the present-day National Monument, including White, Red, Nokai, Lake, and similar vast expanses that remain hard to traverse. The very nature of this landscape—rough, inhospitable, and unforgiving—is what saved us, and the protective status now governing it memorializes the hardships of the Navajo people. We find your oversight especially puzzling because the Supreme Court has long acknowledged that the Antiquities Act is meant to protect the landscape, and past presidents have used the Act for that purpose for an even longer period. We are confident that you will recognize

Navajo Utah Commission • P.O. Box 570 • Montezuma Creek, Utah 84534
Phone: 435-651-3508 • Fax: 435-651-3511

the overly narrow view of the interim report once you hear of the landscape's relationship to our community from the community itself—and from the whole community.

We therefore ask that you come meet with our tribal officials and our local tribal members in the southern half of the county. Please meet with spiritual leaders and tribal members who offer unique perspectives on what these ancestral lands mean to our Tribes and listen to our views about the origins of this historic monument. We urge you to respect the historic significance of this monument for Indian Country and honor Tribes by reconsidering your recommendation to shrink our sacred landscape that is now protected as Bears Ears National Monument. We urge you to read the passage in the proclamation that acknowledges our traditional knowledge itself as a resource to be protected.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and hope you will come to Monument Valley, Utah prior to July 10th.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred Jim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alfred Jim, Chairperson
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION



**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

NUCMAY-705-17

**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR – SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE TO UPHOLD THE
BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION AND OPPOSE THE
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REVERSE THE PRESIDENTIAL
PROCLAMATION**

Whereas:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission (NUC) is a governmental subdivision of the Navajo Nation and is subject to oversight of the Navajo Nation Council - Naabik'iya'ti' Committee pursuant to Resolution NABIAP-21-15; and
2. Since the enactment of the Antiquities Act of 1906, Presidents of the United States have designated monuments through presidential proclamations, accordingly the Bears Ears National Monument was proclaimed as a national monument on December 28, 2016; and
3. The Antiquities Act is a century-old law that allows U.S. presidents to set aside federal lands without congressional approval and in its history, no president has rescinded monument designations made by their predecessors; and
4. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of intertribal support and joint effort in seeking protection and preservation of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access, and practical purposes; and
5. Utah's congressional delegation and state legislature immediately challenged the Bears Ears National Monument designation and rushed House Concurrent Resolution 11 through the 2017 Utah Legislature urging Congress to rescind the presidential proclamation; and
6. President Trump issued an Executive Order on April 26, 2017, directing the Department of Interior to examine all national monument designations in the past 21 years to determine whether their size and scope are within intent of the Antiquities Act; and
7. The Bears Ears National Monument is a historic, cultural, spiritual, and sacred region located in San Juan County, Utah, consisting of 1,351,849 acres including federal lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service (289,000) and Bureau of Land Management (1.06 million); and

**Navajo Utah Commission • P.O. Box 570 • Montezuma Creek, Utah 84534
Phone: 435-651-3508 • Fax: 435-651-3511**


8. The Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council passed Resolution NABIJA-01-17, supporting the proclamation establishing the Bears Ears National Monument by the President of the United States Barack Obama and oppose congressional action to reverse the presidential proclamation; and
9. Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but most notably the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe; and
10. The Protection of the Bears Ears area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby request the President of the United States and U.S. Department of Interior – Secretary Ryan Zinke to uphold the Bears Ears National Monument Designation and oppose the congressional action to reverse the Presidential Proclamation.
2. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby request the Department of Interior to recognize and honor the federal tribal consultation policy in executing President Trump's Executive Order regarding re-examination of national monument designations.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Navajo Utah Commission at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Arizona at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, this 1st day of May, 2017.



Alfred L. Jim, Chairperson
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION

MOTION: David John
SECOND: Wesley Jones



THE NAVAJO NATION

Oljato Chapter Administration

P.O. Box 360455 Monument Valley, Utah 84536
Telephone 435-727-5850 Facsimile 435-727-5852

James Adakai, Chapter President
Albert Holiday, Chapter Vice-President
LaNell Menard-Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer

Herman Daniels, Jr., Council Delegate
Benedict Daniels, Grazing Official
Shirlee Bedonie, CSC

February 20th, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Email: exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov

Dear Secretary Designate Zinke,

Congratulations on your nomination and pending confirmation as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. We look forward to working with you in your capacity as overseer of the federal agencies that make key decisions affecting tribes and our natural resources. We invite you to attend a community listening session in Monument Valley, Utah to discuss the Bears Ears National Monument with tribal officials and Utah citizens.

During your recent confirmation hearing, you stated that your first official order of business is to come to Utah to talk to local community members and make a recommendation to the President of the United States about the Bears Ears National Monument. We would like to meet with you face to face to ensure that the monument is left alone, and that no effort be made to repeal, modify or reduce it in size. As local Utah Navajo, we write to extend a formal invitation to visit with official representatives of the Navajo Nation, including local Utah Navajo Chapter officials.

The Bears Ears National Monument continues to be a place of healing for our people, a place where we still gather firewood, plants and medicinal herbs. It is a place that stands in need of protection from mining, irresponsible recreational vehicle use as well as looting and destruction of our cultural resources. The Navajo Nation Council recently passed a tribal resolution in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation and in opposition to any congressional or administrative action to reverse the proclamation. As the overseer of the federal agencies that have a federal trust responsibility, please take the necessary time to learn of the historical significance of this area by those with the authority to speak for the tribal perspective. Native Americans comprise the majority of citizens in San Juan County, Utah. Our elders wrote the proposal, we support the monument by a wide majority, and we will defend it politically and in court as necessary.

We ask that you come meet with our tribal officials and our local tribal members in the southern half of the county. Please meet with the tribal members who can offer unique perspectives on what these ancestral lands mean to our Tribes and listen to our views about the origins of this historic monument and the ongoing disregard of Native Americans by the State of Utah. **We urge you to** respect the historic significance of this monument for Indian Country and honor Tribes by **recommending no further action** on the sacred landscape that is protected as Bears Ears National Monument.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to meeting with you in Monument Valley, Utah.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Adakai", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Adakai
Oljato Chapter President



CHILCHINBETO CHAPTER

"HOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST NAVAJO RUG"

P. O. BOX 1681, KAYENTA, AZ 86033. EAST HIGHWAY 160 NAVAJO RTE. 59
PHONE: (928) 697-5680/5681 • FAX (928) 697-5691 chilchinbeto@navajochapters.org

Thomas Bradley- PRESIDENT • Eugene Badonie- VICE PRESIDENT • Rita Zonnie- SEC/TREAS
Vacant- GRAZING OFFICIAL • Nathaniel Brown- COUNCIL DELEGATE

Revaline Yazzie-Tate, MANAGER • Evelyn Cleveland -Gray- ADMIN ASST •
Micoline White- OFFICE AIDE



April 25, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Email: exsee@ios.doi.gov

Dear Secretary Designate Zinke,

Congratulations on your nomination and pending confirmation as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. We look forward to working with you in your capacity as overseer of the federal agencies that make key decisions affecting tribes and our natural resources. We invite you to attend a community listening session in Monument Valley, Utah to discuss the Bears Ears National monument with tribal officials and Utah citizens.

During your recent confirmation hearing, you stated that your first official order of business is to come to Utah to talk to local community members and make a recommendation to the President of the United States about the Bears Ears National Monument. We would like to meet with you face-to-face to ensure that the monument is left alone, and that no effort be made to repeal, modify or reduce it in size. As local Utah Navajo, we write to extend a formation invitation to visit with official representatives of the Navajo Nation, including local Utah Navajo Chapter officials.

The Bears Ears National Monument continues to be a place of healing for our people, a place where we still gather firewood, plants and medicinal herbs. It is a place that stands in need of protection from mining, irresponsible recreational vehicle use as well as looting and destruction of our cultural resources. The Navajo Nation Council recently passed a tribal resolution in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation and in opposition to any congressional or administrative action to reverse the proclamation. As the overseer of the federal agencies that have a federal trust responsibility, please take the necessary time to learn of the historical significance of this area by those with the authority to speak for the tribal perspective. Native Americans comprise the majority of citizens in San Juan County, Utah. Our elders wrote the proposal, we support the monument by a wide majority, and we will defend it politically and in court as necessary.

We ask that you come meet with our tribal officials and our local tribal members in the southern half of the county. Please meet with the tribal members who can offer unique perspectives on what these ancestral lands mean to our Tribes and listen to our views about the origins of this historic monument and the ongoing disregards of Native Americans by the State of Utah. We urge you to respect the historic significance of this monument for Indian Country and honor Tribes by recommending no further action on the sacred landscape that is protected as Bears Ears Nation Monument.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to meeting with you in Monument Valley, Utah.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Bradley', is written above the printed name.

Thomas Bradley,
Chilchinbeto Chapter President



Tólikan Chapter

P. O. Box 105 • TeecNosPos, Arizona 86514

Resolution # TC-037 – 04/09/2017

**APPROVING RESOLUTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RYAN ZINKE,
INVITING HIM TO COME TO DINÉ BIKEYAH SOUTHERN UTAH TO BE INFORMED OF
BEARS EARS MOUNTAIN AND THE VICINITY OF THE NAVAJO TRADITIONAL USE
AND SACREDNESS OF THE LAND.**

WHEREAS:

1. The Tolikan Chapter is officially recognized as a Local Governance Act certified chapter of the Navajo Nation pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code Section 103 to exercise authorities to review all matter affecting the community and make appropriate recommendation to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State and local agencies as to who may have the responsibility for consideration and approving such actions; and
2. The Tolikan Chapter officials and membership supported and approved the resolution to the Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, inviting him to come to Diné Bikeyah Southern Utah to be informed of Bears Ears Mountain and the vicinity of the Navajo traditional use and sacredness of the land; and
3. The Tolikan Chapter officials and membership request to maintain the protection of Diné Bikeyah Southern Utah Bears Ears Mountain and the vicinity as a monument approved and signed by President Obama and not to disturb the land for minerals, motor cycle trails, etc.; and
4. The Tolikan Chapter and the community's ancestor lived on the land with many home sites and dwellings still visible in the area; today community people use the land for medicinal purposes, medicine men prayer offerings, herbalist for healing; firewood, and hunting and collecting traditional food.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

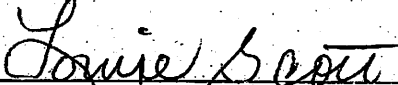
Tolikan Chapter hereby supports and approves the resolution request to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to accept invitation to come to Diné Bikeyah Southern Utah to be informed of Bears Ears Mountain and vicinity of the Navajo traditional use and sacredness of the land.

CERTIFICATION

ToLikan Chapter hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the T Chapter (Navajo Nation) at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and was motioned by Harry Roy, seconded by Roy D. Begay and that same was passed by a vote of 30 in favor, 00 opposed and 03 abstained, this 9th day of April 2017.


Lena Clark, President


Loveha Lee, Vice President


Louise Scott, Secretary/Treasurer

David Tsosie, Grazing Committee

Davis Filfred, Council Delegate



Tółıkan Chapter

P. O. Box 105 • TeecNosPos, Arizona 86514

February 20th, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Email: exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov

Dear Secretary Designate Zinke,

Congratulations on your nomination and pending confirmation as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. We look forward to working with you in your capacity as overseer of the federal agencies that make key decisions affecting tribes and our natural resources. We invite you to attend a community listening session in Monument Valley, Utah to discuss the Bears Ears National Monument with tribal officials and Utah citizens.

During your recent confirmation hearing, you stated that your first official order of business is to come to Utah to talk to local community members and make a recommendation to the President of the United States about the Bears Ears National Monument. We would like to meet with you face to face to ensure that the monument is left alone, and that no effort be made to repeal, modify or reduce it in size. As local Utah Navajo, we write to extend a formal invitation to visit with official representatives of the Navajo Nation, including local Utah Navajo Chapter officials.

The Bears Ears National Monument continues to be a place of healing for our people, a place where we still gather firewood, plants and medicinal herbs. It is a place that stands in need of protection from mining, irresponsible recreational vehicle use as well as looting and destruction of our cultural resources. The Navajo Nation Council recently passed a tribal resolution in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation and in opposition to any congressional or administrative action to reverse the proclamation. As the overseer of the federal agencies that have a federal trust responsibility, please take the necessary time to learn of the historical significance of this area by those with the authority to speak for the tribal perspective. Native Americans comprise the majority of citizens in San Juan County, Utah. Our elders wrote the proposal, we support the monument by a wide majority, and we will defend it politically and in court as necessary.

We ask that you come meet with our tribal officials and our local tribal members in the southern half of the county. Please meet with the tribal members who can offer unique perspectives on what these ancestral lands mean to our Tribes and listen to our views

about the origins of this historic monument and the ongoing disregard of Native Americans by the State of Utah. **We urge you to** respect the historic significance of this monument for Indian County and honor Tribes by **recommending no further action** on the sacred landscape that is protected as Bears Ears National Monument.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to meeting with you in Monument Valley, Utah.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lovena Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lovena" and the last name "Lee" clearly distinguishable.

Lovena Lee
Chapter Vice President



MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER



Red Mesa TP#1019, HC 61 Box 38 • Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514 • (928) 429-0986

February 21, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Email: exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov

Dear Secretary Designate Zinke,

Congratulations on your nomination and pending confirmation as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. We look forward to working with you in your capacity as overseer of the federal agencies that make key decisions affecting tribes and our natural resources. We invite you to attend a community listening session in Monument Valley, Utah to discuss the Bears Ears National Monument with tribal officials and Utah citizens.

During your recent confirmation hearing, you stated that your first official order of business is to come to Utah to talk to local community members and make a recommendation to the President of the United States about the Bears Ears National Monument. We would like to meet with you face to face to ensure that the monument is left alone, and that no effort be made to repeal, modify or reduce it in size. As local Utah Navajo, we write to extend a formal invitation to visit with official representatives of the Navajo Nation, including local Utah Navajo Chapter officials.

The Bears Ears National Monument continues to be a place of healing for our people, a place where we still gather firewood, plants and medicinal herbs. It is a place that stands in need of protection from mining, irresponsible recreational vehicle use as well as looting and destruction of our cultural resources. The Navajo Nation Council recently passed a tribal resolution in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proclamation and in opposition to any congressional or administrative action to reverse the proclamation. As the overseer of the federal agencies that have a federal trust responsibility, please take the necessary time to learn of the historical significance of this area by those with the authority to speak for the tribal perspective. Native Americans comprise the majority of citizens in San Juan County, Utah. Our elders wrote the proposal, we support the monument by a wide majority, and we will defend it politically and in court as necessary.

We ask that you come meet with our tribal officials and our local tribal members in the southern half of the county. Please meet with the tribal members who can offer unique perspectives on what these ancestral lands mean to our Tribes and listen to our views about the origins of this historic monument and the ongoing disregard of Native Americans by the State of Utah. **We urge you to respect the historic significance of this monument for Indian Country and honor Tribes by recommending no further action on the sacred landscape that is protected as Bears Ears National Monument.**

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to meeting with you in Monument Valley, Utah.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Maryboy
Mexican Water Chapter President



MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER



Red Mesa TP#1019, HC 61 Box 38 • Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514 • (928) 429-0986

Mexican Water Chapter

MWCMAY07-074

RESOLUTION OF MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE TO UPHOLD THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION AND OPPOSE THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO RESERVE THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS,

1. The Mexican Water Chapter is duly called certified Chapter pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 3 and Pursuant to 11 N.N.C. Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this Act; and
3. Pursuant to CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council adopted the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA); and
4. Pursuant to Mexican Water Chapter resolution MWCJUL11-105, the Mexican Water Chapter has approved its Five Management System Policies and Procedures Manuals; and
5. Pursuant to the Resources and Development Committee certifying Mexican Water Chapter having met requirement under 26 N.N.C. & 102 (A) on February 07, 2012; and
6. The Mexican Water Chapter is delegated the authority and responsibility to plan and implement community projects to seek and obtain federal funds for the benefit of local residents; and
7. Since the enactment of the Antiquities Act of 1906, President of the United States have designated monuments through presidential proclamations, accordingly the Bears Ears National Monument was proclaimed as a national monument on December 28, 2016; and
8. The Antiquities Act is a century-old law that U.S. presidents to set aside federal lands without congressional approval and in its history, no president has rescinded monument designations made by their predecessors; and
9. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of intertribal support and joint effort in seeking protection and reservation of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access, and practical purposes; and
10. Utah's congressional delegation and state legislature immediately challenged the Bears Ears National Monument designation and rushed House concurrent Resolution 11 through the 2017 Utah Legislature urging Congress to rescind the presidential proclamation; and
11. President Trump issued an Executive Order on April 26, 2017, directing the Department of Interior to examine all national monument designations in the past 21 years to determine whether their size and scope are within intent of the Antiquities Act; and

12. The Bears Ears National Monument is a historic, cultural, spiritual, and sacred region located in San Juan County, Utah, consisting of 1,351,849 acres including federal lands currently managed by the U. S. Forest Service (289,000) and Bureau of Land Management (1.06 million); and
13. Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but mostly notably the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Utah Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation and Zuni Tribe; and
14. The Protection of the Bears Ears area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans; and

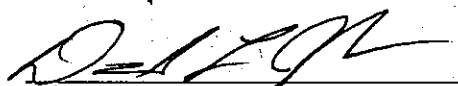
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

1. The Mexican Water Chapter hereby approves to requesting the President of the United States, Donald Trump and the United States Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to uphold the Bears Ears National Monument designation and oppose the Congressional action to reserve the Presidential Proclamation.
2. The Mexican Water Chapter membership continues to support an request to retain the designation of the Bears Ears Monument.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at Mexican Water Chapter, (Navajo Nation), Utah at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 17 in favor, 00 opposed and 02 abstained on this 7th day of May 2017.

Kenneth Maryboy, President



David L. John, Vice-President

Clifford L. Sagg, Secretary/Treasurer